1	IN THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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3	
4	IN RE: INVESTIGATION:
5	Case No. 2003-00433 AN ADJUSTMENT OF THE GAS AND ELECTRIC RATES,
6	TERMS, AND CONDITIONS OF LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
7	EDECINIC COMENNI
8	and
9	
L 0	Case No. 2003-00434 AN ADJUSTMENT OF THE ELECTRIC RATES, TERMS, AND
L1	CONDITIONS OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY
L 2	
L 3	* * *
L 4	
15	SWORN STATEMENT
16	OF
L 7	EARL M. ROBINSON
L 8	AUGUST 29, 2005
L 9	
20	
21	ELLEN L. COULTER, RPR Coulter Reporting, LLC
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9/9/05/10

APPEARANCES SPECIAL GENERAL COUNSEL TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION: JONATHAN D. GOLDBERG Goldberg & Simpson 3000 National City Tower 101 South Fifth Street Louisville, Kentucky 40202 FOR THE WITNESS: THOMAS P. O'BRIEN (Via Speakerphone) Frost, Brown, Todd, LLC 3200 Aegon Center 400 West Market Street Louisville, Kentucky 40202

1 The sworn statement of EARL M. 2 ROBINSON, taken telephonically in the offices of 3 Goldberg & Simpson, 3000 National City Tower, 4 101 South Fifth Street, Louisville, Kentucky, on 5 Monday, the 29th day of August, 2005, at 6 approximately 11:05 a.m. 7 8 EXAMINATION 9 10 BY MR. GOLDBERG: 11 Mr. Robinson, could you state your 12 full name for me. 13 My name is Earl M. Robinson. 14 Α. Okay. And your business address, 15 Q. 16 please? My business address really is two. 17 Α. Our AUS Consultants, Weber Wilson Division is -- are 18 located at 75 Grandview --19 (SPEAKERPHONE DISCONNECTED. 20 OFF THE RECORD) 21 We were struggling with the name of 22 Ο. the business that you gave us. So if you could --23 Oh, okay. Is that where we lost you? 24 Α. 25 Ο. Yeah.

```
Okay. It's AUS Consultants, Weber
             Α.
1
     Wilson Division. It's located at 7 -- pardon me,
 2
     75 Grandview Avenue, Suite 100, Camp Hill,
 3
     Pennsylvania, 17011. And I physically operate out of
 4
     792 Oldsway 66, Suite 200, Tijeras, that's
 5
     T-I-J-E-R-A-S, New Mexico, 87059.
 6
                    All right, sir. And what is your
             Q.
 7
     occupation?
 8
                    I'm a public utility consultant.
 9
             Α.
     worked for a variety of investor-owned companies,
10
     principally in the area of rate regulation
1.1
     evaluation, et cetera.
12
                    All right. And within that context,
13
             Q.
     do you have a specialty that you employ?
14
                    Two of the areas that I focus most
             Α.
15
     prominently in, certainly the first one would
16
     probably be depreciation, as a depreciation expert,
17
     and secondly as evaluation services.
18
                    All right, sir. Prior to the spring
19
     of 2004, had you worked for Louisville Gas &
20
     Electric, LLC, before?
21
                    No. That was our first engagement.
22
             Α.
                    Okay. And when you say "first
23
     engagement," I take it you were employed by
24
     LG&E, LLC, to give an opinion with regard to
25
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depreciation in the two rate cases which we refer to
1
     as 00433 and 00434; am I correct?
2
                    Yes. We were engaged to perform an
 3
             Α.
     appropriate depreciation study and provide support
 4
     for that in the way of testimony in the case.
 5
                    All right. Other than the
 6
             Ο.
     depreciation testimony, did you do any other
 7
     function?
 8
                    No.
             Α.
 9
                    All right. When do you recall first
             Ο.
10
     being engaged by LG&E, LLC?
11
                    Oh, I should have looked those dates
12
         It was probably that -- when was the case filed?
13
                     The notice of intent was filed the end
14
     of November 2003. The actual filing was late
15
     December 2003.
16
                    Okay. It was probably -- I want to
17
             Α.
     say March, April time frame of that year.
18
     just a rough -- somewhere in that time frame.
19
                    All right. And you're breaking up
20
             Ο.
     just a little bit on us. When you -- can you tell us
21
     what you did in March, April of 2003 on this project?
22
                     Okay. The first thing that we do in
23
     any study is once we were engaged we provided the
24
     company with a data request requesting available
25
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information concerning the company's investments in
1
     its plant service and its accumulated depreciation
2
     reserve and other -- any other items relative to the
3
     property of LG&E, electric, gas, and Kentucky
4
     Utilities' property. So we did that initially.
5
                    And once we received that information,
6
     then we started our process of analyzing historical
 7
     data to identify what -- what transpired
8
     historically, and then moved through the study at
9
     later points in time and ultimately prepared a
10
     depreciation study report.
11
                    All right. So your first -- your
1.2
     recollection of first being hired would have been
13
     spring of 2003?
14
                    Yeah.
1.5
             Α.
                    All right. And do I take it you were
16
             Q.
     hired to conduct a depreciation study for both LG&E
17
18
     and KU?
                     That is correct, and also for LG&E.
             Α.
19
     Both the gas and electric in common.
20
                    All right. And did you work on that
21
             0.
     through the summer of 2003?
22
                     Yes.
             Α.
23
                    Okay. Now, let's -- using our time
             0.
24
     line, from the time you were first hired and began
25
```

work in March, April of 2003 to the date of the notice of intent being filed for the two rate cases, which is late November 2003, did you have any opportunity to communicate with any member of the staff of the Kentucky Public Service Commission?

- A. Absolutely none.
- Q. All right. And let me ask you that same question with regard to any member of the commission. Did you communicate with any member of the commission during that time period?
 - A. No.

- Q. All right. Now, other than doing the work on the study that you've spoke of, did you do anything else on the two rate cases between first being hired in March, April of 2003 until the notice of intent to file, November 2003?
- A. No. It wasn't until after the case was filed that I was involved in reviewing intervener testimony and providing, you know, support in that regard.
- Q. All right. And you were anticipating my next question. After the notice of intent to file was made, I take it by that time you had performed your study, depreciation study?
 - A. Yes.

Okay. Were you hired to give expert 1 Q. testimony in the two rate cases? 2 Yes. That was part of the RFP and our Α. 3 proposal. 4 And were you also hired, I take it, 5 either at the same time or subsequently to give 6 comment upon the interveners' expert testimony? 7 Yes. That was part of the same Α. 8 9 project. All right. Any other components to 10 Q. this RFP for work on the two rate cases? 11 Certainly rebuttal phase to the extent Α. 12 it was required. 13 All right. And the rebuttal phase 14 would have been also related to the interveners' 1.5 expert testimony? 16 Α. That's correct. 17 Okay. Anything else in the project as 18 it related to -- to your work other than what we've 19 described? 20 No, not -- nothing else other than, 21 Α. you know, the normal interaction with the legal 22 counsel in preparing for the case. But, you know, 23 that's just part of the standard process. 24 All right, sir. Now, take me through Q. 25

what work you performed from the time the case was actually filed -- well, let's back up. Let's go from notice of intent to file. That would have been November, late November 2003 until April 28th 2004. And April 28th, 2004, I will represent to you, is the first informal conference day amongst the parties in Frankfort, Kentucky. What did you do during that time period?

2.1

here a little bit. We filed, certainly, the case -or I didn't file the case, but a case was filed. We
received discovery. We responded to discovery.

Along that time frame we would have received the -the intervener testimony and would have reviewed that
and would have drafted and prepared rebuttal
testimony, principally for the main call-in of the
KIUC, as well as Michael Majoros of the ratepayer
advocate's office. Those are the two principal
witnesses that I can recall that I would have
provided any response or support or rebuttal
testimony relative to.

- Q. Do you want to spell Majoros for us?
- A. M-A-J-O-R-O-S. He's with Snavely King; essentially worked for ratepayer advocates.
 - Q. All right, sir. And I take it you're

describing a gentleman who is an expert in 1 depreciation? 2 He is somebody that I'm familiar with Α. 3 from my long years of work in the business. 4 All right, sir. But you were hired in 5 0. order to work on rebutting his testimony as part of 6 the task here? 7 Yes. Α. 8 Okay. Now, from the time period we 9 0. talked about -- and again, let's take it -- it sounds 10 like you're more comfortable from the date of filing 11 of the case -- to April 28, 2004, you would have 12 performed those tasks. Would you also have been 13 replying to the commission staff on various data 14 requests that they made? 15 That's correct, yes. Α. 16 All right. And do I take it you'd Ο. 17 also be replying to data requests by other 18 interveners? 19 Yes. Any depreciation-related Α. 20 discovery, we provided assistance in responding to 21 22 those. All right. And with regard to that Ο. 23 task, did you have any opportunity during that time 24 period to communicate with members of the staff --25

No. 1 Α. -- of the Public Service Commission? 2 0. Okay. And again, let me ask the same 3 question with regard to any commission member. Did 4 you communicate to them with regard to the rate 5 6 cases? No, sir, absolutely not. 7 All right. Now, did you attend any of 8 0. the sessions beginning April 28th, 2004, that first 9 informal conference -- did you attend any of the 10 actual sessions where there were hearings of the 11 Public Service Commission on these two rate cases? 12 I need to clarify. The only -- I 13 quess I would clarify my answer this way. No. The 14 only -- the only appearances that I made was for 15 expert testimony. 16 All right. Testimony --17 Ο. I was not involved with any 18 settlements or any settlement meetings or anything 19 20 like that. Okay. Do I take it you did ultimately 0. 21 come to Frankfort, Kentucky to testify? 22 Yes, I did. 23 Α. Okay. I gave you the date of Q. 24 April 28th, 2004. And I take it you did not come for 25

the informal conference or, for that matter, for any 1 reason to Frankfort, Kentucky, prior to the following 2 week, which would have been beginning Monday, May the 3 Am I correct? 4 2nd. That's correct. May -- yeah, May Α. 5 the -- May was the dates that I recall is when the 6 actual hearings were. That's the only thing that I 7 would have attended. 8 All right. And the -- do you recall 0. 9 the date you actually gave testimony? 10 Offhand -- I should have looked it up, Α. 11 but no, I don't. It was early in May, as I recall. 12 All right, sir. Let me see if I --Q. 13 I'm sure it's certainly in the record. 14 Let me see if I can refresh your Ο. 15 memory a little bit. The first day the parties were 16 actually together to give hearing testimony was 17 scheduled -- was May the 4th, 2004, and subsequently 18 May 5th and May 6th. Does that refresh your memory 19 any as when you would have given testimony? 20 Very vaguely. I just know it was like 21 Α. that first week of May. You know, I certainly could 22 go back and look it up, but I was there for direct 23 and rebuttal all on the same day. 24 All right. And do you recall having 25 0.

only spent one day in Kentucky for the -- for the 1 giving of testimony or were you there multiple days? 2 I came in the night before and I would 3 have been there that day, and I believe I left 4 that -- late that afternoon. 5 Okay. So you actually were not even Q. 6 physically on the premises other than the one day of 7 your testimony; am I correct? 8 That's correct. 9 Okav. And do I take it from your 1.0 0. previous statement that you did not witness any of 11 the negotiations between the parties? 12 No. As a matter of fact, we were --13 we weren't sequestered, but we -- there was a staging 14 room off to the -- one side of the hearing room where 15 the company was -- company -- what I call staging 16 room or whatever. And that's where I spent time 17 with, you know, company representatives. 18 Okay. Now, during that period of time 19 0. that you were there, did you have any conversations 20 other than salutations, hi, hello, how are you, with 21 any member of the staff? 22 23 Α. No. Okay. And let me ask you the same 24 0.

question again as it relates to any member of the

25

commission, any conversations? 1 No. Α. 2 Okay. And you were only there the one Ο. 3 You were not there multiple days; am I correct? 4 It was just the one day. 5 Okay. Now, did you have any Ο. 6 conversations between the date of your testimony and 7 late June 2004, the date the decision was rendered by 8 the Public Service Commission, with any member of the 9 staff? ' 10 No. Α. 11 Okay. And did you have any Ο. 12 conversations with any member of the commission 13 during that same time period? 14 Α. No. 15 All right, sir. While the terms 16 "collusive" and "inappropriate" are subjective terms, 17 did you yourself witness any behavior upon the part 18 of the staff or the commission or any party, 19 intervener included, that you thought was 20 inappropriate or collusive in nature? 21 No. 22 Α. Okay. And did you witness any 2.3 0. ex parte conversation, meaning any conversation 24 between a member of the staff and LG&E and KU 25

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personnel?
1
                No.
             Α.
2
                    MR. GOLDBERG: All right, sir. That's
3
     all I have. I appreciate much your giving us a
4
     little bit of time this morning.
5
                    THE WITNESS: You're welcome.
 6
 7
              (STATEMENT CONCLUDED AT 11:20 A.M.)
 8
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STATE OF KENTUCKY) (1) (SS:) (COUNTY OF JEFFERSON 2 3 I, ELLEN L. COULTER, Notary Public, 4 State of Kentucky at Large, hereby certify that the foregoing sworn statement was taken at the time and 5 place stated in the caption; that the appearances were as set forth in the caption; that prior to 6 giving testimony the witness was first duly sworn by me; that said testimony was taken down by me in 7 stenographic notes and thereafter reduced under my supervision to the foregoing typewritten pages and 8 that said typewritten transcript is a true, accurate and complete record of my stenographic notes so 9 taken. I further certify that I am not 10 related by blood or marriage to any of the parties hereto and that I have no interest in the outcome of 11 captioned case. My commission as Notary Public expires 12 November 5n 2007. iven/under my hand this the 13 2005, at Louisville, 14 Kentucky. 15 16 17 ELLEN L. COULTER 18 NOTARY PUBLIC 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

1	I, the undersigned, EARL M. ROBINSON, do
2	hereby certify that I have read the foregoing sworn
3	statement, and that, to the best of my knowledge,
4	said sworn statement is true and accurate, with the
5	exception of the corrections, if any, listed on the
6	errata sheet.
7	S Omal D. O.
8	Evel W Rolin
9	EARL M. ROBINSON
10	
11	Subscribed and sworn to before me this let-
12	day of <u>September</u> , 2005.
13	
14	
15	~ ~ ·
16	NOTARY PUBLIC
17	
18	
19	My commission expires Opril 9, 2009
20	A Company of the Comp
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

COULTER REPORTING, LLC 101 EAST KENTUCKY STREET, SUITE 200 LOUISVILLE, KY 40203

ERRATA SHEET

NAME Earl M. Robinson DATE OF DEPOSITION August 29, 2005 After having read my deposition, I wish to make the following changes: Page 4 Line 18 Change "evaluation" instead of "valuation" Reason for change clarification Page 5 Line 3 & 4
Change "an appropriate" instead of "a" Reason for change clarification Page 6 Line 9

Change "moved" instead of "move" Reason for change clarification Page 9 Line 16
Change "the main call-in" to "Mr Kollen"
Reason for change correction Page 9 Line 24 Change _____ "worked" instead of "works" Reason for change clarification Page ____ Line ____ Reason for change Change ______
Reason for change _____ Page ____ Line ____ Page ___ Line ___
Change ___ Reason for change ____ Page ____ Line ____ Change Reason for change

		direct [1] 12/23
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